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Marine Fisheries Advisory

CLARIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS SEASON CLOSURE

Marine Fisheries recently released the following notice, announcing the closure of the commercial black sea bass fishery. To clarify, as the landing and/or possession of black sea bass is prohibited on Fridays and Saturdays during the open season, the last day of fishing will be Thursday, June 10, 2004. Therefore the fishery will close 0001 hours on Friday, June 11, 2004 and will remain closed through July 31, 2004.

Original advisory:

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**COMMERCIAL BLACK SEA BASS SEASON CLOSED FOR
THE PERIOD JUNE 12 THROUGH JULY 31, 2004**

Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has projected that 50% of the 2004 annual black sea bass quota will have been reached by Friday, June 11, 2004. Consequently effective 0001 hours on Saturday, June 12, 2004 through July 31, 2004 commercial fishermen are prohibited from possessing black sea bass. The fishery will be re-opened on August 1, 2004. The same rules in effect since May 1 will be in effect when the fishery re-opens:

During a 24-hour day, it is unlawful for commercial fishermen to land or possess more than 500 lbs. of black sea bass in the directed sea bass pot fishery and weir fishery, 200 lbs of black sea bass for all other gear types, or 100 lbs. in the commercial lobster trap fishery. During the open season, the landing and/or possession of black sea bass on Fridays and Saturdays is prohibited.

For further information including quota totals and regulations please visit the
Marine Fisheries web site at: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.